

# Operational Contract Support in Afghanistan

A Battalion Task Force Commander's  
Perspective OEF VII & ISAF IV (2006)

By

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# ISAF Regional Commands

RC North

Kunduz

RC West

Herat

RC East

Bagram

RC Capital

Kabul

RC South

Kandahar

RC-C



## Legend

- Afghanistan Major Cities
- Afghanistan Districts
- Afghanistan Provinces
- Afghanistan Country Border
- Countries Bordering Afghanistan



# ***Environment***

- ***Landlocked, dominated by Hindu Kush Mountains***
  - ***Approximately the size of Texas***
  - ***Elevation ranges from 2000 ft to 21,000 ft above sea level***
  - ***12% of the land is arable***
  - ***Immature road network...1 major paved highway (12,300 kms of paved road)***
    - ***Some connecting roads are paved***
  - ***Shares Iran a border of 936 km with Iran and 2,430 km with Pakistan***
- ***Climate: arid to semiarid; cold winters and hot summers***



# Population

- **Multi-ethnic, but majority Pashtun (42%)**
  - 32 million
  - Median Age = 17.6 years (44% are the ages 1-14)
  - Life expectancy = 44
  - 80% Sunni Muslim, 19% Shia Muslim
  - Literacy (Age 15 that can read/write) = 28%
    - South and southeast = 11%
- **Agrarian Society**
  - 80% of the population live in remote villages
  - 80% of employment is in the agricultural sector
- **Key Urban Centers**
  - Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Mazar-Sharif

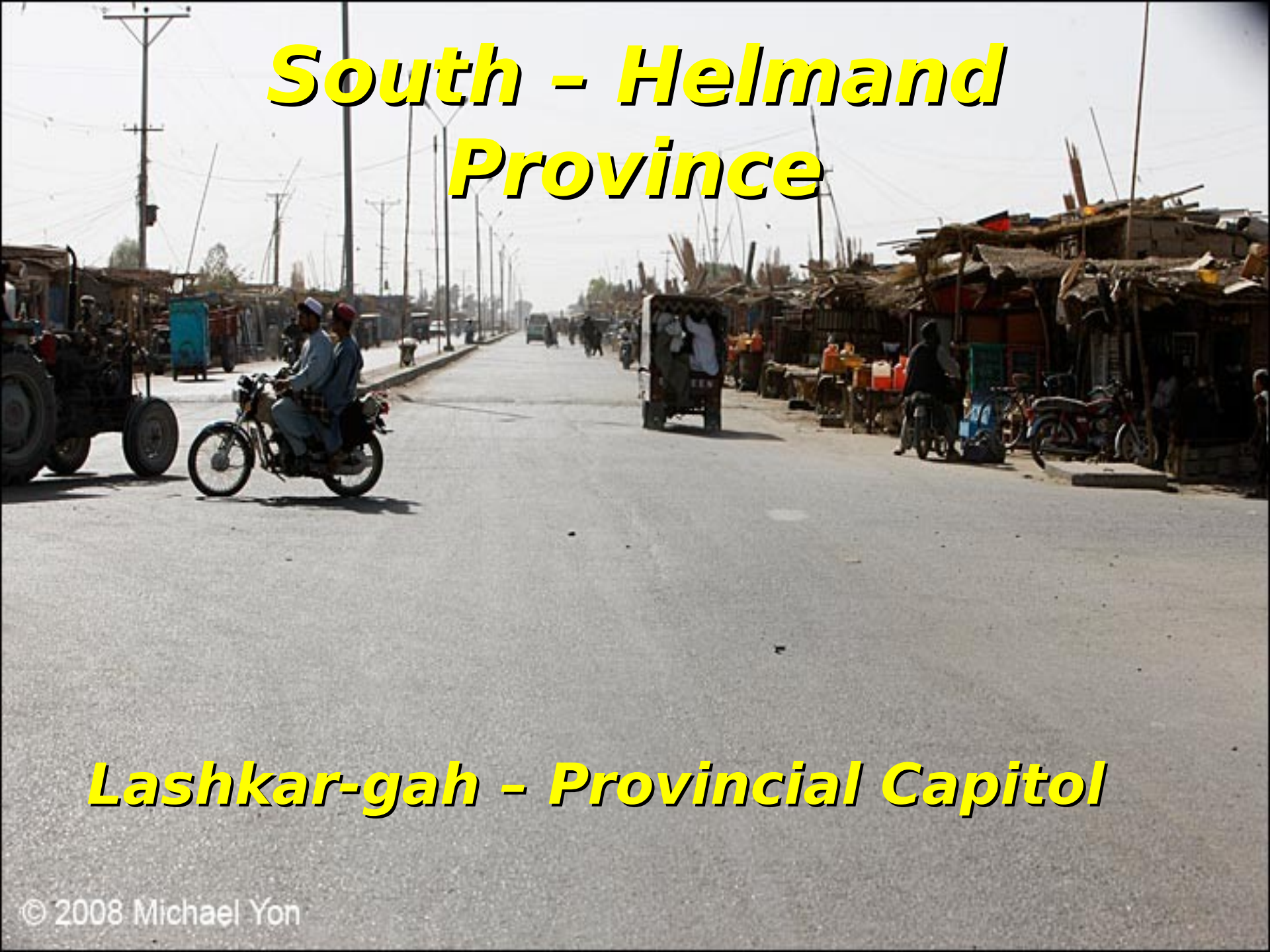


# ***East - Nangahar Province***

***Kabul River Valley***



# ***South - Helmand Province***



***Lashkar-gah - Provincial Capitol***



# ***South - Helmand, Kandahar***



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# ***South & West - Helmand, Kanadahar, Farah***



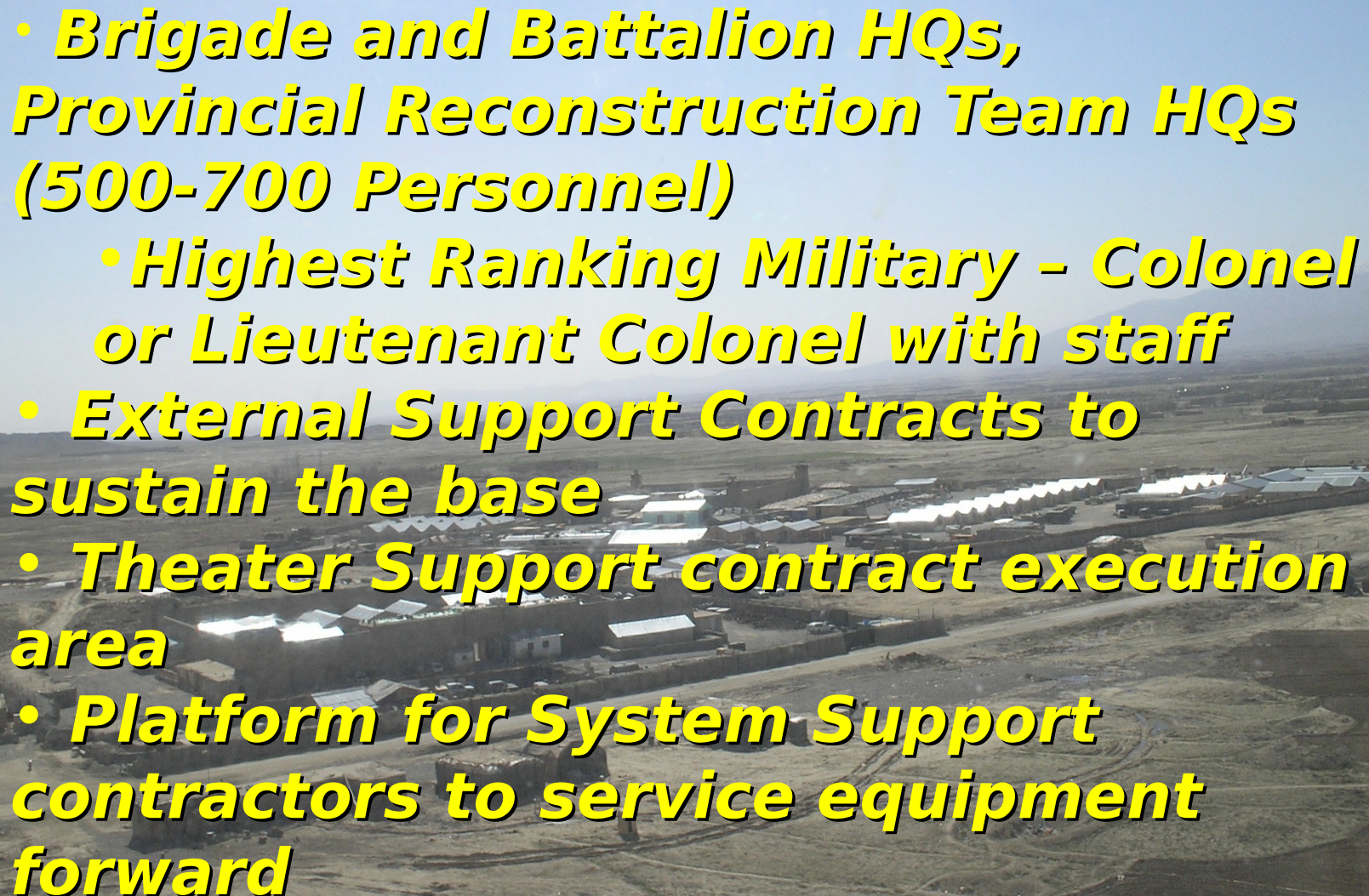


# ***Theater POEs***

- ***Bagram, Kabul, Kandahar (for the US Mil)***
  - ***To lesser extent:***
    - ***Jalalabad & Salerno in the east***
    - ***Bastion in the south***
    - ***Herat & Shindand in the west***
- ***Large bases (10k-20k US Mil and civilians)***
- ***Access to intra and inter-theater lift (both Military and Civilian)***
- ***Senior Military Officer: 2-3 star General***
  - ***Supporting robust staff of contracting officers and a finance office***
- ***System Support contracts prevalent***
  - ***Major weapons systems, aircraft, vehicles***
- ***External Support contracts run base operations***
  - ***HQs operations for both external support and theater support contracts***



# ***Forward Operating Base (FOB) - Gardez***

- ***Brigade and Battalion HQs,  
Provincial Reconstruction Team HQs  
(500-700 Personnel)***
    - ***Highest Ranking Military - Colonel  
or Lieutenant Colonel with staff***
  - ***External Support Contracts to  
sustain the base***
  - ***Theater Support contract execution  
area***
  - ***Platform for System Support  
contractors to service equipment  
forward***
- 
- An aerial photograph of a Forward Operating Base (FOB) in Gardez. The base is situated in a dry, hilly landscape. It features a variety of structures, including several large white tents, smaller buildings with flat roofs, and numerous vehicles and equipment scattered throughout the site. The base is surrounded by a perimeter fence or barrier. In the background, there are more hills and a clear sky.



# ***FOB - Types of Activities***

- ***Theater Support Contracts***
  - ***Intelligence collection***
  - ***Base security***
  - ***Class VI (AAFES)***
  - ***Police trainers (DYNCORP, Blackwater)***
  - ***Governance & Development Advisors and Mentors***
  - ***Corps of Engineer Base Construction Contracts***
- ***External Support Contracts***
  - ***Interpreters***
  - ***LOGCAP: Dining Facility, base operations technicians (electricians, plumbers, etc)***
- ***System Support Contracts***
  - ***Base of operations for repair/diagnostic tests forward***
  - ***New Equipment fielding forward***





# ***Combat Outpost - Baylough***

- ***Senior military commander: Captain***
  - ***no staff***
- ***External and Theater Support Contracts***
  - ***Life Support Comfort Services***
    - ***Internet***
    - ***Shower Trailers***
    - ***Base for External Support Contractors to repair equipment (Plumbers, Electricians)***
  - ***Base Security, Intelligence collection (sensor operators)***



# ***Theater Support Contracts***

- ***Critical to our mission***
- ***Must be Responsive to commander's needs***
- ***Must be flexible***
- ***Success = 2-way Communication***

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***Afghanistan is remote and  
conditions are austere !!***





***This is a NATO Alliance-led  
operation...not a US-led Coalition  
- Differences are significant***





**QUESTIONS?**

